



U.S. Marines Remembered in Wellington on Memorial Day



On Monday, May 25 the New Zealand American Association hosted the U.S. Embassy, Embassy guests, dignitaries and members of the public at a Memorial Day commemorative ceremony at Wellington's Old St Pauls. The ceremony also marked the closing of *A Friend in Need*, an exhibition showcasing the US Marines in Wellington during World War II. *A Friend in Need* has been on display at Old St Pauls for the last two years, and will now be moving to a new home at the National Army Museum in Waiouru.

U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Dr David Keegan spoke to the audience assembled at Old St Pauls, invoking memories of World War II U.S. Marines and servicemen gathered together 65 years earlier in that same place; of the bonds of friendship and camaraderie formed between the Americans and New Zealanders in those years; and of the special relationship that has endured ever since.

SPOTLIGHT is produced monthly by the American Reference Center, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Wellington. All links are current at time of publication.

It offers abstracts of current articles from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in international or U.S. domestic affairs. **Views expressed in the articles cited are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.**

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SOCIAL WELFARE (Health, Education, Human Rights, & Influenza)

2009 Special 301 Report. *Office of the United States Trade Representative.* April 30, 2009.

The “Special 301” Report reports on the adequacy and effectiveness of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection by U.S. trading partners. Canada is being elevated to the Priority Watch List for the first time, reflecting increasing concern about the continuing need for copyright reform, as well as continuing concern about weak border enforcement. Korea is being removed from the Watch List in recognition of the significant improvements it has made during the past year, and the Korean Government’s policy direction of continuing to place a priority on improving its IPR regime.

[ARTICLE 402](#)

Quality of Living Global City Rankings 2009. *Mercer Survey.* April 29, 2009.

Vienna scores highest for overall quality of living, Baghdad the lowest. This year’s rankings also identify cities with the best infrastructure Singapore ranks top for city infrastructure.

[ARTICLE 403](#)

Hard times in the Heartland. *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.* May 4, 2009.

The study outlines health care challenges facing rural communities. The report was developed by HHS staff from across the department and comes on the same day Director of the White House Office of Health Reform Nancy-Ann DeParle, HRSA Administrator Mary Wakefield, and Representative Mike Ross held a meeting with Americans from rural communities as part of White House Health Care Stakeholder Discussions.

[ARTICLE 404](#)

Health Care Workers in Peril: Preparing to Protect Worker Health and Safety During Pandemic Influenza. *American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.* April 2009.

A union survey of more than 100 health care facilities across the country reveals that many are not adequately prepared to protect workers’ health and safety during an influenza pandemic. The report concludes that workers face a very high risk of becoming infected when caring for patients with pandemic flu unless adequate health and safety measures are in place in advance of a pandemic.

[ARTICLE 405](#)

Leveling the Playing Field: Curbing Tax Havens and Removing Incentives for Shifting Jobs Overseas. *The White House.* May 4, 2009.

President Obama and Secretary Geithner unveil two components of the Administration’s plan to reform U.S.’s international tax laws and improve their enforcement. First, there’s a call for reforms to ensure that its tax code does not stack the deck against job creation in the States. Second, they seek to reduce the amount of taxes lost to tax havens, either through unintended loopholes that allow companies to legally avoid paying billions in taxes, or through the illegal use of hidden accounts by well-off individuals.

[ARTICLE 406](#)

Hidden Costs: Reduced IQ from Chlor-Alkali Plant Mercury Emissions Harms the Economy by Simon Mahan and Kimberly Warner. *Oceana.* May 6, 2009.

Lowered IQ due to mercury pollution from outdated mercury-cell chlorine factories has cost the American economy millions of dollars in lost wages annually, according to the report. These factories, called chlor-alkali

plants, produce chlorine and caustic soda with technology that emits mercury pollution into our air, water and food. This industry also contributes to fish contamination, which is the primary source of mercury exposure for humans. Frequent consumption of high mercury fish has been linked to lower IQ in young children and heart disease in adults. [ARTICLE 407](#)

Gallup Student Poll National Report by Shane J. Lopez. *Gallup & America's Promise Alliance*. May 5, 2009.

The poll measures the hope, engagement and well-being of students through a survey administered anonymously in America's schools. The national results will be used by America's Promise Alliance, and the American Association of School Administrators in designing responses that support youth. [ARTICLE 408](#)

Anti-Racism Conference Outcome Document. *UNHCHR*. May 9, 2009.

The outcome document of the Durban Review Conference is designed to bring real changes for the millions of victims of racism worldwide. It has identified "concrete measures and initiatives at all levels" to stamp out racial discrimination and intolerance. It includes specific measures to address multiple forms of discrimination against vulnerable groups. [ARTICLE 409](#)

Key Facts on Corporate Foundations. *Foundation Center*. May 2009.

Charitable giving by the nation's nearly 2,500 corporate foundations remained virtually unchanged in 2008, according to the study. Giving totaled an estimated \$4.4 billion last year. Corporate foundation giving will most certainly decline in 2009, with the banking and finance industries accounting for about one-quarter of corporate foundation support in recent years and corporate earnings down across the board. Slightly more than half of corporate foundations responding to the Center's annual forecasting survey said they expect to reduce their giving this year. [ARTICLE 410](#)

Changing Patterns on Non-marital Childbearing in the U.S. *National Center for Health Statistics*. May 2009.

Data from the Nationality Data Sets, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) shows that the childbearing by unmarried women has resumed a steep climb since 2002. Birth rates have risen considerably for unmarried women in their twenties and over, while declining or changing little for unmarried teenagers. Nonmarital birth rates are highest for Hispanic women followed by black women. Rates for non-Hispanic white and Asian or Pacific Islander women are much lower. [ARTICLE 411](#)

Domino Effect: Domestic Violence Harms Everyone's Kids by Scott E. Carrell and Mark L. Hoekstra. *Hoover Institution, Stanford University*. May 12, 2009.

Children exposed to domestic violence not only have more disciplinary problems at school, they perform considerably worse in math and reading than other students. They also have a negative effect on their classroom peers, resulting in decreased test scores and increased disciplinary problems. [ARTICLE 412](#)

Getting Students More Learning Time Online by Cathy Cavanaugh. *American Progress*. May 2009.

Internal and external forces are simultaneously transforming elementary and secondary education. Complementary changes within the K-12 education community are sweeping schools in the form of one-to-one computing, online learning for students and teachers, and differentiated instruction. [ARTICLE 413](#)

Family Networks and School Enrolment: Evidence from a Randomized Social Experiment by Manuela Angelucci et al. *National Bureau of Economic Research*. May 2009.

The report presents evidence on whether and how a household's behavior is influenced by the presence and characteristics of its extended family. It uses household panel data from the Progres program, which provides cash transfers to households conditional on their children's school attendance in rural Mexico. [ARTICLE 414](#)

Federal and State Cigarette Excise Taxes United States, 1995-2009. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. May 22, 2009.

On April 1, 2009, the largest federal cigarette excise tax increase in history went into effect, bringing the combined federal and average state excise tax for cigarettes to \$2.21 per pack and achieving the Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) objective (27-21a) to increase the combined federal and average state cigarette excise tax to at least \$2 per pack. The report summarizes changes in the federal excise tax, as well as state excise taxes for all 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC) from December 31, 1995 to April 1, 2009. [ARTICLE 415](#)

Federal Housing Finance Agency Report to Congress 2008. *Federal Housing Finance Agency.* May 2009.

Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) releases FHFA's first Report to Congress, detailing the findings of the agency's 2008 annual examinations of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBanks), and the Office of Finance. The report is the first Report to Congress since FHFA was established by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA), signed into law in July of 2008. The report includes conclusions from the examinations of the FHLBanks, information about the compensation of FHLBank directors, and housing mission and goals information for all 14 GSEs. [ARTICLE 416](#)

Pandemic Influenza: a Guide to Recent Institute of Medicine Studies and Workshops . *Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.* May 4, 2009.

In the past several years, the Institute of Medicine has gathered experts to consider major policy issues related to pandemic influenza and other infectious disease threats. The products of these activities include reports and workshop summaries that discuss many dimensions of pandemic planning and response. The overview highlights action and information that could be useful for near-term implementation. [ARTICLE 417](#)

Swine Flu (H1N1 Virus) Survey by Robert . Blendon et al. *Harvard Opinion Research Program, Harvard School of Public Health.* May 1, 2009.

Following the declaration of a public health emergency due to the new H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, the Harvard Opinion Research Program at the Harvard School of Public Health conducted a poll about how concerned Americans are about the outbreak, how they are responding and what they believe about transmission, prevention and treatment. [ARTICLE 418](#)

Update: Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infections - Worldwide. *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.* May 8, 2009.

Since mid-April 2009, CDC, state and local health authorities in the United States, the World Health Organization (WHO), and health ministries in several countries have been responding to an outbreak of influenza caused by a novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. Since recognition of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus in Mexico and the United States, as of May 6, a total of 21 additional countries had reported cases, with a total of 1,882 confirmed cases worldwide. [ARTICLE 419](#)

The 2009 Influenza (H1N1) Outbreak: Selected Legal Issues. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* May 4, 2009.

Recent human cases of infection with a novel influenza A (H1N1) virus have been identified both internationally and in the United States. Since there has been human to human transmission and the new virus has the potential to become pandemic, it is timely to examine the legal issues surrounding this emerging public health threat. The report provides a brief overview of selected legal issues including emergency measures, civil rights, liability issues, and employment issues. [ARTICLE 420](#)

"Contact Your Doctor": Bad Advice? By Robert A. Berenson. *Urban Institute.* May 8, 2009.

Immediate concerns over swine flu might be waning, but public health and government officials continue their fight against the illness, directing people with flu symptoms to see their doctor. But advice like this takes for granted a well-functioning health care system. Many Americans don't have a doctor to contact, either because they don't have health insurance or because primary-care physicians are in short supply. [ARTICLE 421](#)

Estimates of Job Creation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. *Executive Office of the President of the United States.* May 11, 2009.

The report details how the Administration will measure progress creating and saving jobs under the Recovery Act. Work began on the methodology in the earliest days of the Administration and within days of the Act being signed into law, Chairman Romer met with top economists from numerous agencies to develop a simple, conservative and accurate model for measuring progress. The model pairs a macro approach based on projected and actual spending with direct reporting by recipients to improve the level of accuracy. [ARTICLE 422](#)

Reaching America's Health Potential: a State-by-State Look at Adult Health. *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.* May 6, 2009.

Across the country and in every state, adults with less education are more likely to be in less than very good health than college graduates, and adults in every state fall far short of the level of good health that should be achievable for all Americans, says the report. It ranks states on differences in adults' health based on their levels

of education, and it shows that while people with more education are healthier, in some states these differences are much more dramatic than in others. [ARTICLE 423](#)

Women at Risk: Why Many Women are Forgoing Needed Health Care by Sheila D. Rustgi et al. *Commonwealth Fund*. May 11, 2009.

Women are more likely than men to feel the pinch of rising health costs and eroding health benefits, with about half (52%) of working-age women reporting problems accessing needed care because of costs, compared to 39 percent of men, the study finds. Women who are insured but have inadequate coverage are especially vulnerable: 69 percent of underinsured women have problems accessing care because of costs, compared to half (49%) of underinsured men. [ARTICLE 424](#)

Promoting Economic Mobility by Increasing Postsecondary Education by Ron Haskins et al. *Pew Charitable Trust*. May 12, 2009.

Many low-income students miss out on college because they don't know how much it actually costs or how to get access to billions of dollars in financial aid, according to the report. This matters because postsecondary education is among the most important factors in determining whether a person achieves the American Dream of upward economic mobility. [ARTICLE 425](#)

RX for Products That Claim to Prevent H1N1?: A Healthy Dose of Skepticism. *Federal Trade Commission*. May 2009.

The Federal Trade Commission has warned Web site operators who made claims that their products can prevent, treat, or cure the Influenza A/H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu, that they must have scientific proof to support their claims. The FTC told the companies, whose products include dietary supplements, air filtration devices, and cleaning agents, that without scientific proof they are violating federal law and must drop the claims or face further action. [ARTICLE 426](#)

Trends and Emerging Practices in General Education. *Association of American Colleges and Universities*. May 15, 2009.

The survey of chief academic officers at 433 colleges and universities of all sorts, public and private, two-year and four-year, large and small, suggests that many colleges and universities are reforming their general education programs and developing new curricular approaches and ways to assess key learning outcomes. As institutions review their general education programs, many are choosing to incorporate more engaged and integrative curricular practices. [ARTICLE 427](#)

SECURITY / DEFENSE

Country Reports on Terrorism 2008. *U.S. Department of State*. April 30, 2009.

U.S. law requires the Secretary of State to provide Congress, by April 30 of each year, a full and complete report on terrorism with regard to those countries and groups meeting criteria set forth in the legislation. This is the report. [INDEX](#) [FULL TEXT](#)

International Cooperation with Partner Air Forces by Jennifer D. P. Moroney et al. *RAND Corporation*. May 4, 2009.

The U.S. Air Force faces a challenging environment as it devises an approach to managing security cooperation with partner countries. The important mission of countering terrorist and insurgent groups abroad requires working closely with allies and partner countries to strengthen security. Accordingly, current U.S. defense strategy emphasizes that the U.S. armed forces should prepare to do more to work "by, with, and through partners" to accomplish their missions. [ARTICLE 428](#)

The National Interest and the Law of the Sea by Scott G. Borgerson. *Council on Foreign Relations*. May 2009.

Today, even with advances in technology, seaborne commerce remains the linchpin of the global economy. And beyond trade, a host of other issues, ranging from climate change and energy to defense and piracy, ensure that the oceans will hold considerable strategic interest well into the future. [ARTICLE 429](#)

Europe's Problematic Contribution to Police Training in Afghanistan. *Brookings Institution*. May 4, 2009.

As the NATO 60th anniversary summit was approaching, Europeans were worried about Obama's demands for further assistance, particularly more combat troops in Afghanistan. They were surprised and relieved by the attitude of the new administration, which only asked them to contribute in ways which Europeans had long asserted best matched their capabilities and public mood.

[ARTICLE 430](#)

2008 Report on Terrorism. *U.S. National Counterterrorism Center.* April 30, 2009.

Approximately 11,800 terrorist attacks against noncombatants occurred in various countries during 2008, resulting in over 54,000 deaths, injuries and kidnappings. Compared to 2007, attacks decreased by 2,700, or 18 %, in 2008 while deaths due to terrorism decreased by 6,700, or 30%. The largest number of reported terrorist attacks occurred in the Near East, but unlike previous years, South Asia had the greater number of fatalities. These two regions were also the locations for 75 percent of the 235 high-casualty attacks (those that killed 10 or more people) in 2008.

[ARTICLE 431](#)

America's Strategic Posture: the Final Report of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States. *Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the U.S. & U.S. Institute of Peace.* May 6, 2009.

The final report of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States provides over 100 findings and recommendations on critical issues related to U.S. nuclear strategy. Key themes on which recommendations are focused include (1) challenges and opportunities inherent in the current security environment; (2) the roles, functions, and projection of U.S. nuclear forces, including missile defense; (3) the safety, security, and reliability of the nuclear stockpile; (4) the state of the nuclear weapons complex; (5) arms control and nonproliferation; and (6) additional steps for the prevention of proliferation and the protection against nuclear use.

[ARTICLE 432](#)

Imported Oil and U.S. National Security by Keith Crane et al. *RAND Corporation.* May 11, 2009.

While on a net basis the United States imports nearly 60 percent of the oil it consumes, this reliance on imported oil is not by itself a major national security threat, according to the study. The study finds that the economic costs of a major disruption in global oil supplies pose the greatest risk to the United States. The study evaluates commonly suggested links between oil imports and U.S. national security, and assesses the economic, political and military costs and benefits of potential policies to address threats to U.S. national security associated with imported oil.

[ARTICLE 433](#)

Alternatives for Modernizing U.S. Fighter Forces. *Congressional Budget Office.* May 2009.

The United States Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps are in the process of replacing most of today's fighter aircraft with new F/A-18E/F, F-22, and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft. Although procurement plans call for purchasing about 2,500 aircraft over the next 25 years, the services are projecting that those purchases will be unable to keep pace with the need to retire today's aircraft as they reach the limit of their service life. The study compares the size and capability of today's forces with the forces that would be fielded under the Department of Defense's (DoD's) modernization plans and several alternative plans that would offer varying levels of capability and require varying levels of budgetary commitment.

[ARTICLE 434](#)

The Taming of the Great Nuclear Powers by Godfried van Benthem van den Bergh. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.* May 2009.

The author argues that nuclear weapons have unintended beneficial consequences. They can make the intended development of a more peaceful global and political order possible. The Carnegie Nonproliferation Program presents the paper in hopes of furthering international dialogue and debate on the nuclear order, including the abolition of nuclear weapons.

[ARTICLE 435](#)

[87% Worried About Security of Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons](#) Rasmussen Reports. May 4, 2009.

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of U.S. voters are now at least somewhat concerned about the security of nuclear weapons in Pakistan as the radical Islamic Taliban continues to make gains in that country. Sixty percent (60%) are Very Concerned.

Pakistan, Taliban and Global Security – Part I by Leonard S. Spector. *YaleGlobal.* May 8, 2009.

With the Pakistani army battling Islamist insurgents barely 100 miles from the capital, the world's wary eyes are turned increasingly on the safety of the country's nuclear arsenal.

[PART I](#)

[PART II](#)

ECONOMICS, BUSINESS, FINANCE & TRADE

The Crisis-Resilience of Services Trade. *Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank.* April 2009.

Much attention has focused on the impact of the current crisis on goods trade; hardly any on services trade. Using new trade data from the United States, and more aggregate data from other OECD countries, the authors show that services trade is weathering the current crisis much better than goods trade. As of February 2009, the value of US goods imports had declined year-on-year by 33 percent and the value of goods exports by 21 percent; services imports and exports each had declined by less than 7 percent. [ARTICLE 436](#)

Troubled Assets: the IMF's Latest Projection for Economic Growth in the Western Hemisphere by David Rosnick. *Center for Economic and Policy Research.* April 28, 2009.

The issue brief examines the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) economic growth projections for Latin America and the Caribbean through 2014. It finds that for some countries, most notably Venezuela and Argentina, the IMF's projections inexplicably portend a prolonged negative impact of the current world recession, even as countries harder-hit by the downturn, such as Mexico, recover. In other cases, such as Haiti, the IMF projects a surprisingly big growth spurt. [ARTICLE 437](#)

The Return of the State: the New Investment Paradigm by Marshall Auerback. *Levy Economics Institute of Bard College.* May 2009.

To save America and the global economy as a whole, the private/public sector balance has to shift, and the neoliberal economic model on which the country has been based for the past 25 years has to be modified. In the working paper, Marshall Auerback details why the role of the state needs to be reemphasized. [ARTICLE 438](#)

Two Views on the Cause of the Global Crisis: Parts I and II. *Yale Global.* May 4, 2009.

The first view contends that income inequality and speculative investment by the rich and poor in America led to financial meltdown. On the other hand, the second view contends that the twin excesses, financialization and globalization, caused the crash. [PART I](#) [PART II](#)

Strong Dollar has Little Effect on Small Retailers, Larger Effect on Wholesalers. *Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration.* May 1, 2009.

A strong dollar, making imports cheaper and exporting more difficult, appears to have little effect on the survival rate of small retailers, according to the study. The study covers 15 years of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Statistics of U.S. Businesses and other sources. On the other hand, the study's authors found that real exchange rate appreciation lead to increased rates of small firm exit in the wholesale sector. [ARTICLE 439](#)

Global Monitoring Report 2009: a Development Emergency. *World Bank.* May 9, 2009.

The global economic crisis, the most severe since the Great Depression, is rapidly turning into a human and development crisis. No region is immune, says the report. The poor countries are especially vulnerable, as they have the least cushion to withstand events. The crisis, coming on the heels of the food and fuel crises, poses serious threats to their hard-won gains in boosting economic growth and reducing poverty. It is pushing millions back into poverty and putting at risk the very survival of many. [ARTICLE 440](#)

One Last Chance: the Economic Case for a New Approach to Fisheries Management in New England by Robert J. Johnston and Jon G. Sutinen. *Pew Environment Group.* May 6, 2009.

The New England groundfish fishery would be more economically and environmentally sound if the system used to manage the activities of commercial fishermen was changed from regulations based on "days-at-sea" to annual catch limits. In addition, the new system would give declining populations of the region's iconic species like cod and flounder a chance to rebuild, providing a sustainable future for the industry. [ARTICLE 441](#)

Vicious Cycle: How Unfair Credit Card company Practices are Squeezing Consumers and Undermining the Recovery. *U.S. Joint Economic Committee.* May 12, 2009.

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Chair of the Joint Economic Committee (JEC), and Senator Charles E. Schumer, Vice Chairman of the JEC, released a report showing unfair credit card practices are sending American families further into debt and undermining the economic recovery. The report outlines how the economic downturn and financial crisis have accelerated the adverse impacts of these practices on consumers, small businesses and our economy as a whole. [ARTICLE 442](#)

General Explanations of the Administration's Fiscal Year 2010 Revenue Proposals. *U.S. Department of Treasury.* May 11, 2009.

The report provides details of plans to cut taxes for small businesses and middle class families and close unfair corporate tax loopholes. The plan includes \$736 billion in tax cuts for working families over the next ten years and provides almost \$100 billion in tax cuts for businesses. The plan also promotes fairness and fiscal responsibility by closing hundreds of billions in loopholes. [ARTICLE 443](#)

The Lauder Global Business Insight Report 2009: First-Hand Perspectives on the Global Economy. *Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management & International Studies.* May 2009.

The study reports on companies and industries analyzed during a summer immersion program by the Institute's students in 12 countries. It provides a window into the changing global economy, including the rise of Chinese and Egyptian companies in the telecom. sector, the promise of Brazilian technology in the field of organic plastics, the challenges of the hostile takeover market in Russia, the reluctance of the Japanese government to welcome foreign investment, and the dilemmas facing the Mexican oil industry. [ARTICLE 444](#)

Trade Policy in a Time of Crisis: Suggestions for Developing Countries by Gary Hufbauer and Sherry Stephenson. *Centre for Economic Policy Research.* May 2009.

The world is enduring the worst economic setback since the Great Depression. Real estate and share prices have fallen sharply; major firms are failing; credit conditions are extremely tight; manufacturing production has dropped; commodity prices have plunged; and unemployment is rising everywhere. Poor countries are especially hard hit. According to the World Bank, slower economic growth in 2009 will add an additional 53 million people to those living on less than \$1.25 a day and 64 million to those living with less than \$2 a day. [ARTICLE 445](#)

Tough Decisions and Limited Options: How Philadelphia and Other Cities are Balancing Budgets in a Time of Recession. *Pew Charitable Trusts.* May 18, 2009.

The report looks at how 13 major cities are coping with the recession and finds that most are facing significant budget gaps and are cutting services and personnel in response. [ARTICLE 446](#)

Reducing Foreclosures: No Easy Answers by Christopher Foote et al. *Fed. Res. Bank of Atlanta.* May 2009.

The paper takes a look at a leading argument about what is causing the foreclosure crisis and what should be done to stop it. It uses an economic model to focus on two key decisions: the borrower's choice to default on a mortgage and the lender's choice whether to renegotiate or modify the loan. The model and econometric analysis illustrate that unaffordable loans, defined as those with high mortgage payments relative to income at origination, are unlikely to be the main reason that borrowers decide to default. [ARTICLE 447](#)

Obama's Business Report Card by Jane Sasseen. *Business Week.* April 29, 2009.

How does the business community think President Barack Obama is doing? As he hits the 100-day mark, there's little doubt the new President is getting high marks overall for his 24/7 moves to revive the economy. And the favorable sentiment on Obama's job performance reflected in many public polls is also mirrored in the views of many business executives. [ARTICLE 448](#)

Help Wanted: Why That Sign's Bad by Peter Coy. *Business Week,* April 30, 2009.

In the midst of the worst recession in a generation or more, with 13 million people unemployed, there are approx. 3 million jobs that employers are actively recruiting for but have been unable to fill. [ARTICLE 449](#)

After the Stress Tests. *Council on Foreign Relations.* May 8, 2009.

On May 7, U.S. regulators released the much-anticipated results of the series of stress tests they had carried out to determine the health of the nation's top nineteen banks. The tests revealed that these banks could suffer losses of up to \$599 billion if the economy fares worse than expected. [ARTICLE 450](#)

Regulating and Resolving Institutions Considered "Too Big to Fail" Testimony of Martin Neil Baily and Robert E. Litan to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. Delivered on May 6, 2009

In testimony before the Senate Banking Committee, Martin Baily and Robert Litan address the "too big to fail" conundrum, saying large institutions are necessary but must be regulated in a way that at least partially offsets the risks they pose to the rest of the financial system. [ARTICLE 451](#)

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Solving the Puzzle: Research the Impacts of Climate Change Around the World. *National Science Foundation.* May 1, 2009.

The report discusses Earth's systems piecewise, beginning with the physical systems of Earth's atmosphere, sea, land, and ice, then focusing on life on Earth, and ending with the most challenging and dynamic piece of all, people. The report shows it's important to realize that all of the pieces of the climate puzzle are interconnected, and all pieces are necessary to gain a full understanding of climate variability and change. [ARTICLE 452](#)

Ensuring Green growth in a time of Economic Crisis: the role of energy Technology. *International Energy Policy.* May 2009.

Despite the severity of the current financial and economic crisis, it cannot be allowed to distract us from addressing critical and strategic climate change and energy challenges, says the report. The paper describes the most promising low-carbon technologies, their current status and the policy framework that will be necessary to achieve their widespread deployment. [ARTICLE 453](#)

Prepared Remarks: the Global Implications of a Warming Arctic by Scott G. Borgerson. *Council on Foreign Relations.* May 5, 2009.

The author participates in the roundtable discussion on "The Global Implications of a Warming Arctic" with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He testifies about the climate change driving the Arctic's transformation; then paints a future of the current state of international relations in the Arctic. He also provides specific policy recommendations the U.S. should take to advance its interests in this region. [ARTICLE 454](#)

Solving the Puzzle: Researching the Impacts of Climate Change Around the World. *National Science Foundation.* May 2009.

The report describes how, over nearly 60 years, National Science Foundation (NSF) funded researchers have found signs of a changing climate in nearly every corner of the globe. Climate change research and education has been identified as a Presidential priority area and the report's release coincides with the recent announcement of the President's fiscal year 2010 budget for NSF, which includes an increase of approximately \$250 million for climate research, which would double NSF's investment in climate research. [ARTICLE 455](#)

EPA Proposes New Regulations for the National Renewable Fuel Standard for 2010 and Beyond. *Environmental Protection Agency.* May 5, 2009.

The EPA is proposing a strategy for increasing the supply of renewable fuels, poised to reach 36 billion gallons by 2022, as mandated by the Energy Independence and Security Act 2007. Increasing renewable fuels will reduce dependence of foreign oil by more than 297 million barrels a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 160 million tons a year when fully phased in by 2022. [ARTICLE 456](#)

State Climate Policy Tracker Reveals Progress by 33 States. *New America Fed.* May 2009.

The study provides an online tool that allows state-by-state tracking of hundreds of carbon and energy saving measures now being implemented across the country. The [State Climate Policy Tracker](#) takes the form of a single spreadsheet with one tab devoted to each state that has completed or is in the process of completing a climate action plan. [ARTICLE 457](#)

U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Sources 2008 Flash Estimate. *Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy.* May 2009.

U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels decreased by 2.8 percent in 2008, from 5,967 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (MMTCO₂) in 2007 to 5,802 MMTCO₂ in 2008, according to preliminary estimates released today by the Energy Information Administration (EIA). This is the largest annual decline in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions since EIA began annual reporting on greenhouse gas emissions. [ARTICLE 458](#)

Policies Needed to Improve Energy Efficiency, Revive Economy in the Southeast U.S. *World Resources Institute.* May 7, 2009.

Energy efficiency policies in the Southeast U.S. can help reduce electricity use by more than 10 percent over the next six years, saving the same amount of power generated by more than 30 coal-fired power plants, according to the study. [ARTICLE 459](#)

'Mountains of the Moon' get Nod for International Wetlands Protections. *World Wildlife Fund.* May 13, 2009.

Part of the Rwenzori Mountains, home to some of the last glaciers in Africa and likely Ptolemy's 'Lunis Montae,' received international recognition as a protected wetland site under the international Ramsar convention, a major conservation decision that will help protect the region's vast ecological riches. [ARTICLE 460](#)

OPEC Revenues Fact Sheet. *Energy Information Administration.* May 2009.

Based on projections from the Energy Information Administration May 2009, members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$462 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$526 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$968 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42% increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$285 billion, representing 29% of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$2,680 in 2008, a 40% increase from 2007. [ARTICLE 461](#)

Imported Oil and U.S. National Security by Keith Crane et al. *RAND Corporation.* May 11, 2009.

While on a net basis the United States imports nearly 60 percent of the oil it consumes, this reliance on imported oil is not by itself a major national security threat, according to the study. The study finds that the economic costs of a major disruption in global oil supplies pose the greatest risk to the United States. The study evaluates commonly suggested links between oil imports and U.S. national security, and assesses the economic, political and military costs and benefits of potential policies to address threats to U.S. national security associated with imported oil. [ARTICLE 462](#)

Meeting Projected Coal Production Demands in the USA: Upstream Issues, Challenges, and Strategies. *Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.* May 12, 2009.

The study seeks to investigate different aspects of the coal supply chain and to highlight critical "upstream" fuel cycle issues that need to be addressed to ensure that the domestic coal industry can continue meeting the nation's energy demands while delivering the social benefits and environmental performance demanded by the public. It reviews all coal-related upstream issues, identifying problems and strengths, and recommending areas of improvement. [ARTICLE 463](#)

Strategic Petroleum Reserve. *U.S. Government Accountability Office.* May 12, 2009.

The possibility of storing refined petroleum products as part of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) has been contemplated since the SPR was created in 1975. The SPR, was created to help insulate the U.S. economy from oil supply disruptions. However, the SPR does not contain refined products such as gasoline, diesel fuel, or jet fuel. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed the Department of Energy (DOE) to increase the SPR's capacity from 727 million barrels to 1 billion barrels, which it plans to do by 2018. [ARTICLE 464](#)

Comparative Analysis of Three Proposed Federal Renewable Electricity Standards by Patrick Sullivan et al. *National Renewable Energy Laboratory.* May 19, 2009.

This paper analyzes potential impacts of proposed national renewable electricity standard (RES) legislation. An RES is a mandate requiring certain electricity retailers to provide a minimum share of their electricity sales from qualifying renewable power generation. [ARTICLE 465](#)

Storage of Captured Carbon Dioxide Beneath Federal Lands by Tim Grant. *National Energy Technology Laboratory.* May 14, 2009.

The report provides an initial estimate of the potential to store carbon dioxide (CO₂) underneath millions of acres of Federal lands. It estimates and characterizes the storage potential that lies beneath some of the more than 400 million acres of Federal land available for lease. [ARTICLE 466](#)

Voters Support Congressional Action on Comprehensive Energy and Global Warming Legislation. *Pew Environment Group.* May 2009.

As the House Energy and Commerce Committee prepares to markup the American Clean Energy and Security Act, the Pew Environment Group releases national survey findings demonstrating overwhelming support for decisive action on behalf of clean energy jobs, energy independence and reducing the carbon pollution that causes global warming. [ARTICLE 467](#)

The Coral triangle and Climate Change: Ecosystems, People and Societies at Risk. *World Wildlife Fund and The University of Queensland.* May 2009.

The report considers over 300 published scientific studies and includes the work of over 20 experts in fields such as biology, economics and fisheries science to present two different possible futures this century for the world's richest marine environment, the coasts, reefs and seas of the six countries of Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste. The Coral Triangle, just one per cent of the earth's surface, includes 30 per cent of the world's coral reefs, 76 per cent of its reef building coral species and more than 35 per cent of its coral reef fish species as well as vital spawning grounds for other economically important fish such as tuna. It sustains the lives of more than 100 million people. [ARTICLE 468](#)

A Perspective on Changing Conditions in LMEs of the World's Regional Seas. *United National Environmental Programme.* May 20, 2009.

The world's coastal ocean waters continue to be degraded by unsustainable fishing practices, habitat degradation, eutrophication, toxic pollution, aerosol contamination, and emerging diseases, according to the report. It finds that 61 of the world's 64 large marine ecosystems, show a significant increase in sea surface temperatures in the last 25 years, contributing to decreasing fisheries catches in some areas and increasing catches in others. [ARTICLE 469](#)

The Climate Lobby's Non-Stop Growth by Marianne Lavelle. *Center for Public Integrity.* May 2009.

As Congress focuses on landmark legislation to reduce global warming, nearly 140 new businesses and interest groups, led by an array of technology firms, have joined in the intense lobbying on climate change, according to the report. Microsoft, Google, and eBay are among the technology firms that helped drive an increase of more than 14% in companies and organizations lobbying on climate in the first quarter of 2009. [ARTICLE 470](#)

To Make Clean Energy Cheaper, U.S. Needs Bold Research Push by Mark Muro and Teryn Norris. *Brookings Institute.* April 30, 2009.

The task is clear: To renew the U.S. economy, respond to global climate change, foster the nation's energy security, and help provide the energy necessary to sustainably power global development, America must transform its outdated energy policy. [ARTICLE 471](#)

U.S. POLITICS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Dissection the 2008 Electorate: Most Diverse in U.S. History by Hugo Lopez and Paul Taylor. *Pew Research Center.* April 30, 2009.

The electorate in last year's presidential election was the most racially and ethnically diverse in U.S. history, with nearly one-in-four votes cast by non-whites. The nation's three biggest minority groups, blacks, Hispanics and Asians, each accounted for unprecedented shares of the presidential vote in 2008. Overall, whites made up 76.3% of the record 131 million people who voted in November's presidential election, while blacks made up 12.1%, Hispanics 7.4% and Asians 2.5%. [ARTICLE 472](#)

Obama, Catholics, and the Notre Dame Commencement. *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.* April 2009.

Most Catholics who have heard about the issue support the University of Notre Dame's decision to invite President Barack Obama to speak and receive an honorary degree at its May 17 commencement, even though he supports abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research. But a new poll also finds a deep division on this issue between the most-observant Catholics and those who are less observant, as defined by frequency of worship service attendance. [ARTICLE 473](#)

Treaties in Force 2009. *U.S. Department of State.* May 2009.

Treaties in Force is prepared by the Department of State for the purpose of providing information on treaties and other international agreements to which the U.S. has become a party and which are carried on the records of the Department of State as being in force as of its stated publication date, January 1, 2009. [ARTICLE 474](#)

Citizen's Briefing Book: To President Barack Obama from the American People. *Office of Public Engagement, The White House.* May 11, 2009.

As a closing act for the Transition, Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett requested that the Office of Public Liaison create a process by which Americans outside of Washington could come together to present ideas directly to the

President, a "Citizen's Briefing Book." 125,000 users submitted over 44,000 ideas and cast over 1.4 million votes, with the most popular ideas accumulating tens of thousands of votes each. The book contains some of the top ideas, broken into groups by issue area. Out of the tens of thousands of submissions, these ideas found the most support.

[ARTICLE 475](#)

North Korea, Inc. U.S. by John S. Park. *Institute of Peace*. May 2009.

Assessing regime stability in North Korea continues to be a major challenge for analysts. By examining how the web of state trading companies affiliated to the Korean Workers' Party, the Korean People's Army, and the Cabinet operates, the author develops a new framework for gauging regime stability.

[ARTICLE 476](#)

Winning the Information War in Afghanistan and Pakistan by Greg Bruno. *Council on Foreign Relations*. May 11, 2009.

With overwhelming firepower, Western armies rarely lose in combat to Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. But in the communications battle, the militants appear to hold the edge. The paper explores the U.S. efforts to mount a "strategic communications" counterattack on the Afghanistan-Pakistan front.

[ARTICLE 477](#)

GOP Losses Span Nearly All Demographic Groups by Jeffrey M. Jones. Gallup. May 18, 2009.

The decline in Republican Party affiliation among Americans in recent years is well documented, but a Gallup analysis now shows that this movement away from the GOP has occurred among nearly every major demographic subgroup. Since the first year of George W. Bush's presidency in 2001, the Republican Party has maintained its support only among frequent churchgoers, with conservatives and senior citizens showing minimal decline.

[ARTICLE 478](#)

India's Election Shows Equitable Globalization Can Succeed by Sadanand Dhume. *Yale Global*. May 2009.

India's Congress Party's big win in the recent election has as much significance for citizens of that country as it does for citizens of the world. It shows that democracy and development can go hand in hand, according to author Sadanand Dhume. A country that is slated to grow above 5 percent amid the financial crisis is a model for developing nations. That India can do this while sporting the world's largest democracy, enjoying the world's largest voter turnout, all the while exhibiting substantial pluralism, is a lesson that democracy is not simply a western phenomenon.

[ARTICLE 479](#)

[Republicans Face Steep Uphill Climb Among Women](#) by Jeffrey M. Jones. Gallup Poll. May 6, 2009.
Men increasingly identifying as independents, drifting away from GOP.

[Americans' Satisfaction With U.S. Doubles Since January](#) by Frank Newport. Gallup Poll. May 5, 2009.

Although still low on an absolute basis, the percentage of Americans who are satisfied with the way things are going in the United States has doubled since Barack Obama took office, moving from 17% in mid-January to 34% for the week ending May 3.

[Presidency 2012: The Invisible Primary Begins](#) by Larry J. Sabato. May 7, 2009.

With fewer than 1,300 days left until the next general election for President, we have failed to offer a single analysis of this historic upcoming battle. With humility, and hoping for mercy, we submit this first update on 2012.

EAP REGION

Structural Policies to Overcome Geographic Barriers and Create Prosperity in New Zealand by Yvan Guillemette. Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. April 30, 2009.

New Zealand's living standards remain well below the OECD average. According to the study, this is entirely attributable to persistently low labor productivity, which in turn is related to economic geography as well as structural policy factors.

[ARTICLE 480](#)

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. *U.S. Census Bureau*. March 3, 2009.

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the

United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a month-long celebration. Per a 1997 Office of Management and Budget directive, the Asian or Pacific Islander racial category was separated into two categories: one being Asian and the other Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

[ARTICLE 481](#)

Presidential Proclamation: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2009. *The White House*. May 1, 2009.

"The vast diversity of languages, religions, and cultural traditions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continues to strengthen the fabric of American society. From the arrival of the first Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants 150 years ago to those who arrive today.... all possess the common purpose of fulfilling the American dream and leading a life bound by the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

MIDDLE EAST

Occupying Iraq: a History of the Coalition Provisional Authority by James Dobbins et al. *RAND Corporation*. May 12, 2009.

The American engagement in Iraq has been looked at from many perspectives, the flawed intelligence that provided the war's rationale, the failed effort to secure an international mandate, the rapid success of the invasion, and the long ensuing counterinsurgency campaign. The book focuses on the activities of the Coalition Provisional Authority and its administrator, L. Paul Bremer, who governed Iraq from May 2003 to June of the following year.

[ARTICLE 482](#)

Winning the Information War in Afghanistan and Pakistan by Greg Bruno. *Council on Foreign Relations*. May 11, 2009.

With overwhelming firepower, Western armies rarely lose in combat to Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. But in the communications battle, the militants appear to hold the edge. The paper explores the U.S. efforts to mount a "strategic communications" counterattack on the Afghanistan-Pakistan front.

[ARTICLE 483](#)

Arab Countries Stumble in the Face of Growing Economic Crisis by Ibrahim Saif and Farah Choucair. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. May 14, 2009.

The reaction of Arab countries to the economic crisis has been uneven and deficient. Cushioning the blow, protecting the hardest hit, and reigniting regional growth will all be best achieved by an urgent and coordinated response that does not compromise important long-term goals like increased transparency and stability, concludes the new commentary.

[ARTICLE 484](#)

Reversal in Iraq by Stephen Biddle. *Council on Foreign Relations*. May 14, 2009.

Iraq is currently in the early stages of a negotiated end to an intense ethno sectarian war. As such, there are several contingencies in which recent, mostly positive trends in Iraq could be reversed, threatening U.S. national interests. The author assesses four scenarios in Iraq that could derail the prospects for peace and stability in the short-medium term and posits policy options to limit U.S. vulnerability to such reversals.

[ARTICLE 485](#)

Dangerous but not Omnipotent: Exploring the Reach and Limitations of Iranian Power in the Middle East. *RAND Corporation*. May 19, 2009.

Following the U.S. invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, the Iranian threat to U.S. interests has taken on seemingly unprecedented qualities of aggressiveness and urgency. The report offers a new U.S. policy paradigm that seeks to manage the challenges Iran presents through the exploitation of regional barriers to its power and sources of caution in the regime's strategic calculus.

[ARTICLE 486](#)

A New U.S. Policy Paradigm Toward Iran by Frederic Wehrey et al. *RAND Corporation*. May 2009.

Iranian power projection is marked by strengths, but it also has serious liabilities and limitations. The U.S. should consider a new approach to Iran that integrates elements of engagement and containment.

[ARTICLE 487](#)

From Strategy to Implementation: The Future of the U.S.-Pakistan Relationship by Lisa Curtis. *The Heritage Foundation*. May 5, 2009

Although the collapse of the Pakistani state may not be imminent, as some have recently argued, the government's surrender of the Swat Valley is a major victory for Islamist extremists seeking to carve out pockets of influence within the country. [ARTICLE 488](#)

Pakistan and the Future of U.S. Policy by Malou Innocent. *CATO Institute*. April 13, 2009

Instead of "surging" into this volatile region, the United States must focus on limiting cross-border movement along the Afghanistan-Pakistan frontier and supporting local Pakistani security forces with a small number of U.S. Special Forces personnel. [ARTICLE 489](#)

A Tale of Two Wars by Zbigniew Brzezinski. *Foreign Affairs*. May/June 2009.

Richard Haass' perceptive insider's account of the policymaking leading up to both Iraq wars -- one a "war of choice," the other a "war of necessity" -- holds key lessons for future U.S. leadership in the Middle East and beyond. [ARTICLE 490](#)

[**Occupying Iraq: a History of the Coalition Provisional Authority**](#) by James Dobbins et al. *RAND Corporation*. 2009.

Pakistan, Taliban and Global Security – Part I by Leonard S. Spector. *YaleGlobal*. May 8, 2009.

With the Pakistani army battling Islamist insurgents barely 100 miles from the capital, the world's wary eyes are turned increasingly on the safety of the country's nuclear arsenal. [PART I](#) [PART II](#)

MEDIA, JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATIONS

10 Worst Countries to be a Blogger. *Committee to Protect Journalists*. April 30, 2009.

With a military government that severely restricts Internet access and imprisons people for years for posting critical material, Burma is the worst place in the world to be a blogger, according to the report. It also identifies a number of countries in the Middle East and Asia where Internet penetration has blossomed and government repression has grown in response. [ARTICLE 491](#)

Beyond the Information Technology Agreement: Harmonization of Standards and Trade in Electronics by Alberto Potugal-Perez. *Policy Research Working Paper, World Bank*. April 28, 2009.

Product standards can have a dual impact on production and trade costs. They may impose additional costs on exporters as they may be necessary to adapt products for specific markets. In contrast, standards can reduce exporters' information costs if they convey information on industrial requirements or consumer tastes that would be costly to collect in the absence of standards. The authors examine the impact of internationally-harmonized European standards on European Union imports. [ARTICLE 492](#)

The Future of Journalism: Communications, Technology, and the Internet. *Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation*. May 6, 2009.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation announces the following Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet hearing: The Future of Journalism. [ARTICLE 493](#)

Saving the News: Toward a National Journalism Strategy by Victor Pickard et al. *Free Press*. May 12, 2009.

The study reports on how the government should respond to the current crisis in journalism. It provides an in-depth analysis of ideas and proposals being debated around the future of the news business and advocates for a range of short- and long-term strategies. [ARTICLE 494](#)

Online Classifieds by Sydney Jones. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. May 2009.

The number of online adults who have used online classified ads has more than doubled in the past four years. Almost half (49%) of internet users say they have used online classified sites, compared with 22% of online adults who had done so in 2005. [ARTICLE 495](#)

A Costly Mistake? By Paul Farhi. *American Journalism Review*. April/May 2009.

When the Associated Press decided a decade ago to sell its news content to online portals, it may have hastened the decline of the daily newspapers that own the wire service. [ARTICLE 496](#)